

COMPREHENSIVE PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION PLAN

2015 - 2020

Section III - Action Items



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***City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan:
2015 – 2020***

Section III – Action Items

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Abbreviations

Garden Sites: Designated City of Fitchburg Park, Open Space, and Recreation System properties on which community gardens could be located;

LA: University of Wisconsin – Madison Landscape Architecture Department;

Plan: City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan: 2015 - 2020;

System: City of Fitchburg Park, Open Space, and Recreation System;

URPL: University of Wisconsin – Madison Urban and Regional Planning Department;

WDNR: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources;

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The *City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan – Action Items* is Section III of a three-section *Plan* document. This section of the *City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan* (hereafter “*Plan*”) identifies general goals and potential recommended action items to ensure adequate maintenance and enhancement of Fitchburg’s Park, Open Space, and Recreation system (hereafter “*system*”) over the *Plan* horizon, from 2015 - 2020. This section of the *Plan* is organized as follows:

- Action item framework;
- Action items;
- *Plan* update and monitoring;

Action Item Framework

Recreation on public spaces can take many different forms. Conventional forms include basketball/volleyball courts, baseball/softball diamonds, play equipment, and nature activities such as walking or hiking. These conventional forms will always have a place on public spaces. This section of the *Plan* looks beyond these conventional forms and looks at recreation on public spaces through the following framework, **the Three S’s of Sociable, Solitude, and Seams**:

SOCIABLE (Think: People)



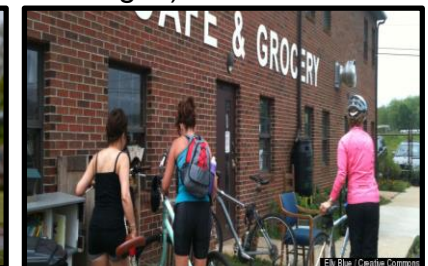
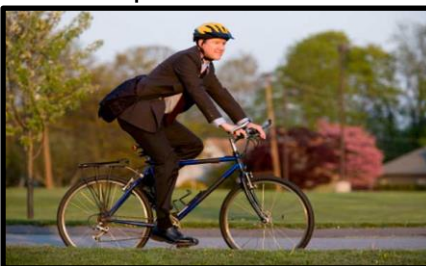
What attracts people most, it would appear, is other people.” – William Whyte

SOLITUDE (Think: Nature)



Solitude can include people....its more about surrounding environment and uses.

SEAMS (Think: Transportation Corridors and Linkages)



Trails from home to “work” places (jobs, schools, etc.), trails from home to “errand” places (shopping centers, etc.) and trails from home to “play” places (parks, restaurants, etc.).

The following seven City goals support this framework and provide general direction for the City's *system* over the *Plan* horizon, from 2015 – 2020.

The goals were developed from feedback gathered during the stakeholder participation process, goals, objectives, and policies contained in the 2010 – 2015 *Plan* update, and City staff expertise.

- Goal 1: Distribute** Fitchburg's park, open space, and recreation lands, and uses and facilities therein, in an accessible and equitable manner that reflects existing and future recreational demands and trends, and population demographics;
- Goal 2: Protect** Fitchburg's natural, cultural, and historical resources;
- Goal 3: Develop** Fitchburg's park, open space, and recreation lands, and uses and facilities therein, in a manner that provides identity and economic development opportunities for the City;
- Goal 4: Integrate** Fitchburg's park, open space, and recreation land, and uses and facilities therein, with a comprehensive City-wide trail/path system, stormwater management system, and environmentally sensitive area system;
- Goal 5: Provide** recreational program and services in an accessible and equitable manner that reflects existing and future recreational demands and trends, and population demographics;
- Goal 6: Manage** Fitchburg's park, open space, and recreational lands, and uses and facilities therein, in an efficient manner that optimizes benefit, minimizes cost, and provides for public safety;
- Goal 7: Serve** as the face of Fitchburg's park, recreation, and open space system through public interaction and service;

Action Items

The following identifies 16 recommended *Plan* action items, and associated tasks, for 2015 – 2020 that advance the aforementioned **Three S's framework** and goals for the City system. The action items were identified to address issues identified in Section II of the *Plan*.

1. **Designate *Signature Themed Parks* that focus on one or a few related uses and amenities in specific City parks as identified below**, so as to provide an identity for the City and its system and attract users from throughout the region: *Sociable, Solitude, and Seams*;
 - a. Develop a *City of Fitchburg Parks - Signature Themed Park Concept Proposal* based on the following table and map:

Signature Theme*	Location	Potential Related Uses and Amenities
Agriculture	North Stoner Prairie/ Badger State Trail**	3-season facility to host farmers market, community gardens and small-scale agriculture, edible landscapes, agriculture/local food classes, and food/drink opportunities;
Biking	Dawley Conservancy	Velodrome, enhanced bike hub and bike “waystop”, bike trails, and food/drink opportunities;
	Quarry Ridge Recreation Area	
Culture	McKee Farms Park	Amphitheatre, festivals, concerts, fairs, and food/drink opportunities;
	Fitchburg Center	
History	Old Fitchburg**	Outdoor museum and food/drink opportunities;
Nature	McCoy/West Clayton Road Open Space	Nine Springs Creek water trail “trailhead”, arboretum, environmental interpretive center, and “natural” playground;
Sport Fields	McGaw Park	Tennis courts and baseball/softball, lacrosse, soccer, and rugby fields;
Winter	Nine Springs Golf Course	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, ice-skating, winter festivals, warming house, and food/drink opportunities;

* *Signature Themes*, as identified above, are conceptual and subject to change based on further research and development of the *City of Fitchburg Parks - Signature Themed Park Concept Proposal*. Other uses commonly found at City parks (play equipment, ball fields, etc.) and outdoor recreational areas (trails, etc.) are not precluded from potential *Signature Themed Parks*.

** These areas are not currently owned by the City of Fitchburg. The North Stoner Prairie/Badger State Trail area is currently owned by a private party and is planned for future park/recreation/conservancy use, per the North Stoner Prairie Neighborhood Plan. The Old Fitchburg area is currently owned by Wisconsin Department of Transportation and managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Map 1: City of Fitchburg Proposed Signature Themed Parks

Agriculture



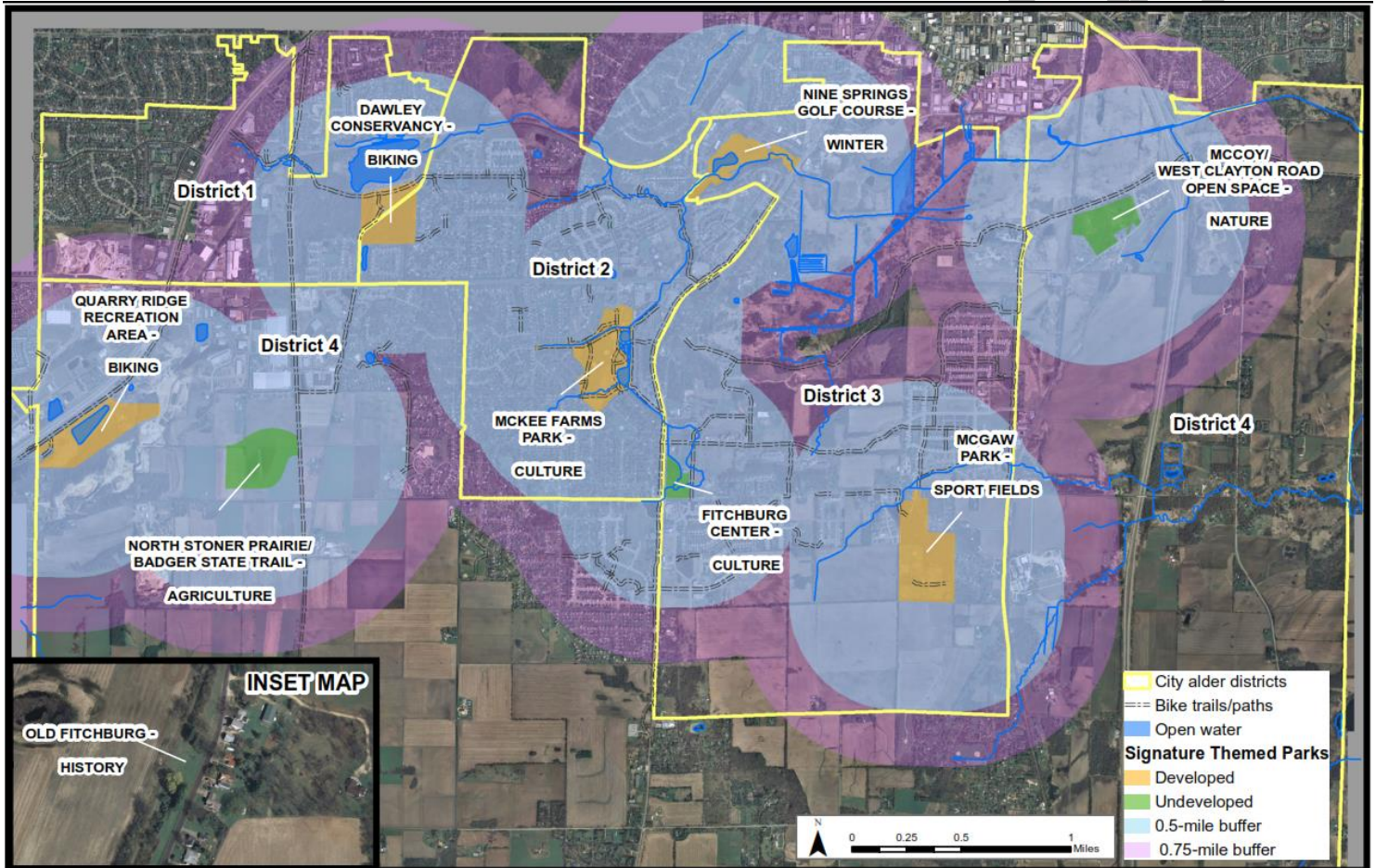
Winter



Biking



Culture



Food and Drink



Sport Fields



History



Nature

2. **Develop partnerships with private entities**, including but not limited to those that could provide for food and drink opportunities on City system properties, so as to provide financial returns to the system, expand the system's user profile, and promote the concept of City Parks as sociable "3rd Spaces": *Sociable*;



Biergarten at Estabrook Park (Milwaukee County)

Source: City of Fitchburg

- a. Develop a *City of Fitchburg Parks – Local Food Initiative* to include a request for proposal template, to explore opportunities for food carts, farmers markets, food/drink "garden", and other local food/drink opportunities in designated City Signature Themed Parks;
- b. Continue discussion with private partners on the possibility of a Velodrome to be located in the Dawley Conservancy area;

3. **Explore revision of the City system classification and standards, parkland dedication, and open space requirements for commercial and multi-family residential development projects**, so as to encourage optimal and efficient land use premised on the appropriate placement, size, and uses of City system properties and private open spaces: *Sociable, Solitude, and Seams*;

- a. Develop a *City of Fitchburg – Park and Open Space Classification and Standards Study* to include alternative options for system classification and standards, parkland dedication requirements, identification of desirable Smart Code – New Community zoning district "civic spaces", and opportunities for placement of useable, recreational open space in private developments;

4. **Continue discussion on a potential neighborhood center in the North Fish Hatchery Road area** with other interested parties, including but not limited to the City of Madison, Madison Metropolitan School District, YMCA, United Way Boys and Girls Club, other relevant non-profit organizations, and neighborhood residents/organizations: *Sociable*;

- a. Implement feasible recommendations as contained in the *North Fish Hatchery Road Neighborhood Center – Concept Analysis* (2015):



Drawing by Aldo Leopold Elementary School student when asked "What would you like to see in your neighborhood?"

Source: City of Fitchburg

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5. **Assist in development and implementation of a comprehensive City trail/path plan and system**, premised on connecting residential areas with City *system* properties and other “social” places such as restaurants, coffee shops, and community facilities: *Sociable, Solitude, and Seams*;
- a. Update the *City of Fitchburg Bike and Pedestrian Plan (2008)*;
 - b. Explore development of a Nine Springs Creek Water Trail from the Nine Springs E-Way to Nine Springs Golf Course;
 - c. Identify projects that are eligible for Dane County Partners in Recreation and Conservation & Ride Bicycle grants on an annual basis, and apply for said grants;
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6. **Encourage location of community gardens** on the following City *system* properties* (hereafter “Garden Sites”) and market said Garden Sites with regional community garden organizations, including but not limited to the Gardens Network:

- a. Belmar Hills Park;
- b. Fitchburg Center;
- c. McKee Farms Park;
- d. Nine Springs Golf Course;
- e. Pinnacle;
- f. Wildwood South Park;

Locating community gardens on Garden Sites shall be subject to the following process (a. - c.):

- a. A garden manager shall submit a proposal for a community gardens at a Garden Site to City staff;
- b. City staff will work in conjunction with the garden manager to hold one or more neighborhood meetings regarding the proposal;
- c. Any proposal shall require Parks Commission approval;



***Brittingham Park Community Garden
(City of Madison)***

Source: City of Madison

Furthermore, any other City park or parkland site, not identified as a Garden Site herein, may have a community garden located on it subject to a. – c. above.

*Garden Sites were identified in accordance with criteria identified in Appendix D – City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan: 2015 – 2020, Section II – Existing Conditions Report, and input received from public opinion surveys and public meetings, and offers of assistance by neighborhood residents.

7. **Explore opportunities for development of a “dog park” and related facilities**, at an existing developed or undeveloped City *system* property, utilizing a methodology similar to that utilized for the community garden siting process, as identified in 6. above.
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8. **Explore opportunities for addition of staff within the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department**, including but not limited to positions related to “park and urban forestry maintenance operations” and “neighborhood outreach/volunteer coordination”, with the latter staff position potentially developed in coordination with the City of Madison, and the Madison Metropolitan School District, whose tasks would focus on the “Fitchburg-Madison border region” (North Fish Hatchery Road and Allied Drive areas) and would include Spanish speaking/writing, volunteer coordination, and development of a formalized relationship with students and faculty in the University of Wisconsin – Madison Landscape Architecture (LA) and Urban and Regional Planning (URPL) Departments: *Sociable, Solitude, and Seams*;

- a. Consult with City of Madison and Madison Metropolitan School District about the potential for new or existing “Fitchburg-Madison border region” staff;
 - b. Identify a point of contact within the UW-Madison LA and URPL programs and provide to said contact a list of student project ideas;
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9. **Design and landscape existing and future parks** so as to provide identity for the City and its system, expand the user profile of the system, and encourage optimal and efficient land use: *Sociable, Solitude, and Seams*;

- a. Develop *City of Fitchburg Parks – Design and Landscape Criteria* premised on creating and encouraging the following:

1. A welcoming and inviting feeling to City parks;
2. Appropriate Sociable, Solitude, and Seams uses;
3. Universal accessibility;
4. Safety;
5. Wildlife habitat, including bees and butterflies;



Volunteers constructing monarch way station at McKee Farms Park

Source: City of Fitchburg

- b. Work with the City's Public Works Department to enhance existing and new stormwater facilities in City parks, including interpretive signage and viewing and use opportunities;
 - c. Work with the City's Economic Development Department to develop a City system “brand”;
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10. **Strengthen partnerships with other governmental entities** that own or manage outdoor recreation land or facilities or provide outdoor recreation programs and services within the City, including but not limited to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Dane County, and Madison School and Community Recreation, so as to identify common goals and deliver outdoor recreation programs and services in an efficient and economical manner: *Sociable, Solitude, and Seams*;

- a. Explore development of a Nine Springs Creek Water Trail from the Nine Springs E-Way to Nine Springs Golf Course;
 - b. Identify projects that are eligible for the Dane County Partners in Recreation and Conservation & Ride Bicycle grants on an annual basis, and apply for said grants;
 - c. Consult with WDNR staff about potential use of the “Old Fitchburg” site along the Badger State Trail, and opportunities to expand public use and educational opportunities at the Nevin Fish Hatchery;
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11. **Maintain and enhance the City's tree canopy, and forest and prairie landscapes** so as to ensure protection and preservation of the City's vegetative resources and broader ecosystem: *Sociable and Solitude*;

- a. Develop a *City of Fitchburg Urban Forestry – Strategic Management Plan*;
 - b. Explore development of an arboretum in McKee Farms Park or at the McCoy/West Clayton Road Open Space area;
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12. **Maintain and enhance the City's stormwater facilities and water-ways** so as to ensure protection and preservation of the City's water resources and broader ecosystem: *Sociable and Solitude*;

- a. Work with the City's Public Works Department to enhance stormwater facilities in City parks, including interpretive signage and viewing and use opportunities;
- b. Explore development of a Nine Springs Creek Water Trail from the Nine Springs E-Way to Nine Springs Golf Course;



Harlan Hills Stormwater Pond
Source: City of Fitchburg

13. **Continue to explore opportunities for new recreation programs and services**, including but not limited to those related to fitness, classes, leagues, and other events, so as to expand the user profile of the City *system* by meeting current demand and trends in recreational programs/services: *Sociable*;

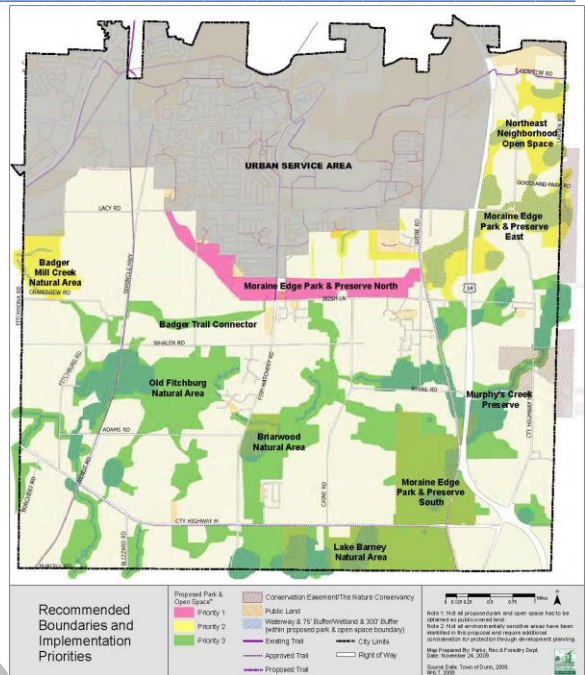
- a. Develop a strategy to gather input on existing and potential future recreation programs and services;
-

14. **Continue to manage and maintain the City *system*** in a manner so as to provide identity for the City and its *system*, expand the user profile of the *system*, and encourage optimal and efficient land use: *Sociable, Solitude, and Seams*;

- a. Create a *City of Fitchburg – Park Operations Maintenance and Landscaping Map and Database* that inventories maintenance and landscaping status, and identifies and prioritizes areas of maintenance and landscaping needs;
-

15. **Monitor opportunities to implement past and future City system concepts and projects**, so as to maintain and enhance the *City system: Sociable, Solitude, and Seams*;

- a. Review future development proposals and City budget cycles as they relate to the *Conceptual Park and Open Space Proposal*, *Moraine Edge Park*, and the *Heritage Circle Route*;
- b. Review future development proposals and City budget cycles as they relate to existing Town of Madison parks, scheduled for incorporation in to the City system by 2022:



Conceptual Park and Open Space Proposal
Source: City of Fitchburg

16. **Maintain adequate levels of City financial resources and explore opportunities for “non-City” financial resources** to maintain and enhance the *City system: Sociable, Solitude, and Seams*;

- a. Explore opportunities for private sponsorship and advertising at designated City system properties;
- b. Identify projects that are eligible for Dane County Partners in Recreation and Conservation & Ride Bicycle grants on an annual basis, and apply for said grants;

Plan Monitoring, Updates, and Amendments

City Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department staff will monitor implementation of this *Plan*’s recommended action items on an annual basis to assure sufficient implementation to meet Fitchburg’s park, open space, and recreation needs.

This *Plan* will be updated no less than once every five years to assure the *Plan* reflects changes in Fitchburg’s park, open space, and recreation needs. As such, the next *Plan* update process should begin in 2020 and be completed in early 2021, and be subject to a comprehensive public stakeholder participation process. Any amendments to this *Plan* will be reviewed and adopted by the Fitchburg Parks Commission and Common Council.